



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 304

January Session, 2015

House Bill No. 5107

House of Representatives, March 31, 2015

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 29-252 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2015*):

4 (a) As used in this subsection, "geotechnical" means any geological
5 condition, such as soil and subsurface soil condition, which may affect
6 the structural characteristics of a building or structure. The State
7 Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee shall,
8 jointly, with the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative
9 Services, adopt and administer a State Building Code based on a
10 nationally recognized model building code for the purpose of
11 regulating the design, construction and use of buildings or structures
12 to be erected and the alteration of buildings or structures already
13 erected and make such amendments thereto as they, from time to time,

14 deem necessary or desirable. Such amendments shall be limited to
 15 administrative matters, geotechnical and weather-related portions of
 16 said code, amendments to said code necessitated by a provision of the
 17 general statutes and any other matter which, based on substantial
 18 evidence, necessitates an amendment to said code. The code shall be
 19 revised (1) not later than January 1, 2005, and thereafter as deemed
 20 necessary to incorporate any subsequent revisions to the code not later
 21 than eighteen months following the date of first publication of such
 22 subsequent revisions to the code, and (2) not later than January 1, 2016,
 23 to incorporate revisions to the National Electrical Code adopted by the
 24 National Fire Protection Association in 2014, and thereafter as deemed
 25 necessary to incorporate any subsequent revisions, but in no event
 26 later than one year following the date of first publication of any
 27 subsequent revisions to the National Electrical Code. The purpose of
 28 [said] the State Building Code shall also include, but not be limited to,
 29 promoting and ensuring that such buildings and structures are
 30 designed and constructed in such a manner as to conserve energy and,
 31 wherever practicable, facilitate the use of renewable energy resources,
 32 including provisions for electric circuits capable of supporting electric
 33 vehicle charging in any newly constructed residential garage in any
 34 code adopted after July 8, 2013. [Said] The State Building Code
 35 includes any code, rule or regulation incorporated therein by reference.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2015	29-252(a)
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PS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Dept. of Administrative Services	GF - Cost	at least 188,739	at least 188,739
Comptroller- Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	at least 72,948	at least 72,948

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee to consistently update the State Building Code (SBC) to reflect revisions to the National Electrical Code (NEC) adopted by the National Fire Protection Association.

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) would need to hire one Staff Attorney 2, one Administrative Assistant and one Fire & Life Safety Specialist at a cost of at least \$261,687 (\$188,739 in salaries and \$72,948 in fringe benefits) in FY 16 to handle the bill's requirements. DAS would have to concurrently work on SBC requirements from the NEC and International Code Council (ICC) documents. New versions of the SBC would overlap each other and would lead to a significant increase in workload to reconcile each model document with Connecticut-specific laws and issues.

The Out Years

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 38.65% of payroll in FY 16 and FY 17.

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5107*****AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS.*****SUMMARY:**

By January 1, 2016, this bill requires the state building inspector and the state Codes and Standards Committee to incorporate in the State Building Code the revisions to the National Electrical Code (NEC) adopted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in 2014. Thereafter, they must incorporate NEC revisions as deemed necessary but no later than one year after the date of their first publication.

By law, unchanged by the bill, the building code must be revised, as deemed necessary, to incorporate revisions not later than 18 months after they are first published.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***Codes and Standards Committee***

The committee works with the state building inspector and state fire marshal to implement the state building, fire safety, and fire prevention codes. Its members include architects, professional engineers, construction superintendents, and local building and fire officials.

National Electrical Code

NEC is one of several model codes that together comprise the State Building Code. Connecticut has adopted the 2011 code (NFPA 70) and is in the process of adopting the 2014 edition.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/12/2015)